Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Gene Erickson was born on November 10, 1924, on a farm near Toronto, South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered, and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

Whereas, Gene married Ellva Hanson of Clear Lake, and to this union, four children were born, Jeff, Linda, Laurel, and Julie, who in turn blessed them with nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; and,

Whereas, Gene joined the Marine Corps during World War II and was wounded while serving in the South Pacific; and,

Whereas, Gene returned to South Dakota after the war to attend South Dakota State University on the GI Bill and later farmed outside Clear Lake. He then worked at the First Fidelity Bank in Colome and retired in 1985 from the Southern Hills Bank in Edgemont after serving as the chairman, president and CEO; and,

Whereas, Gene is active in Shriners and the Lutheran Church and is a supporter and champion of service to his community, the state, and all mankind; and,

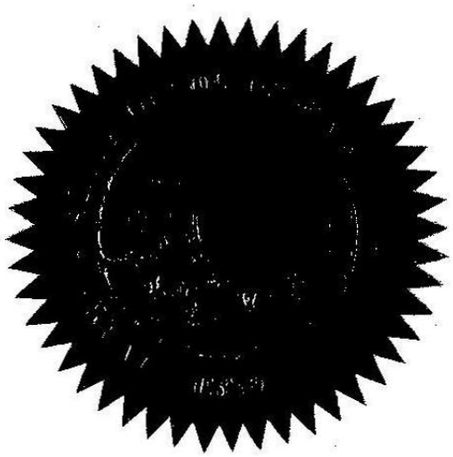
Whereas, Gene will share his birthday on November 10, 2004, with the 229th anniversary of the Marine Corps; and,

Whereas, It is only fitting that Gene celebrate his 80th birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as his friends and relatives will gather to honor him and celebrate his life and the camaraderie of the day in Arizona City, Arizona, and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a man who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 10, 2004, as

GENE ERICKSON DAY

in South Dakota, and I join all his many friends and relatives in wishing him a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-seventh Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State